to the investors, Union Budget 2002-2003 proposes amendments inSEBI Act 1992.

- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.
- The Competition Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for promoting competition and curbing monopoly.
- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 5 per cent from 5.5 per cent a move that is likely to release Rs. 5000 crores to banks for lending.This move will ease the liquidity position further.
- The Reserve Bank has also announced measures for stepping up growth momentum with stimulus to agriculture, housing, small-scale sector and exports in its credit policy for 2002-03. It also aims at facilitating better credit delivery and moving forward with structural reforms.
- Power sector reforms have received a boost in pursuance of the centre's decision to provide grants equal to the amount by which States have been able to reduce their power sector deficits. The States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been able to reduce losses in the past couple of years. These three States will now be eligible for matching grant under the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP).

Duty free access to Bangladeshi products

1385. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has granted duty free access to 40 Bangladeshi products;

(b) if so, the reciprocal gesture shown by the Bangladesh;

(c) whether any request has been received by Government to receive/ replace certain products in the list of 40 Bangladeshi products provided duty free access; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (b) During the

Bangladesh India Bilateral Trade Talks held at Dhaka from 8-10 April, 2002 India agreed to provide duty free access to Bangaladeshi products on 40 tariff lines at the six digit HS level. It was decided that the actual notification of these 40 tariff lines would be done only after the Government of Bangladesh addressed the issue of land route for India's cotton yarn exports. The notification has not been issued since the Govenrment of Bangladesh has not addressed our specific concern.

(c) and (d) Government of India has further received a list of 121 items from the Government of Bangladesh for duty free access to India. The list includes the 40 items on which Government of India had earlier agreed to provide duty free access to Bangladesh.

Assistance to rural dusted by NABARD/SIBDI

1386. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SIDBI and NABARD are assisting rural clusters for helping cottage Industries in Andhra Pradesh and the rest of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of clusters developed with the assistance of SIDBI and NABARD separately in each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is assisting rural clusters for helping cottage industries under National* Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). Similarly, National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also assisting artisans under NPRI for development of Rural Industrial Clusters. The activities assisted under Rural Cluster relate to Idol Making, Imitation Jewellery making, Leather Craft, Banjara Embroidery, Plastic Rope Making, Shoe Making" and Handloom Weaving etc.

The number of clusters developed with the assistance of SIDBI and NABARD separately in each State so far is furnished in the enclosed Statement.